



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Office of the Bishop

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November 2, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

As your bishop, one of my greatest responsibilities is to ensure that the faithful of our diocese will always have good and holy priests to shepherd them. And yet, priestly vocations are never the work of one person alone. They arise when the whole Church prays for, encourages, and calls forth those men whom God has chosen.

For this reason, our diocese is launching a special **Called by Name** campaign on **November 8-9**, during which I ask that you help me identify young men who demonstrate faith, generosity, and leadership.

The young men you nominate do not need to have already expressed a desire for the priesthood. Rather, we seek to honor and encourage those who live their faith with integrity, serve generously, and show potential for Christian leadership. Your nomination may be the spark that helps a young man open his heart more fully to God's call.

I ask each of you to prayerfully submit the name of at least one (or several) such young men. You may use the cards provided at Mass or submit names online at ajvocations.org. For those under 18, please include their parents' names as well.

This effort is dear to my heart. With your thoughtful participation, I am confident the Lord will raise up many new shepherds for his people. May this campaign bear lasting fruit for our diocese and for the salvation of souls.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Mark L. Bartchak
Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown